In that connection, the Member referred to the following grievances of the Anjinad ryots :—

(1) The annual repairs to the Talliar Dam and Channel were not regularly carried out by the P. W. D., and as a consequence the cultivation of the lands commanded by the Talliar Scheme became well-nigh impossible. The ryots had to pay a water-cess of Rs. 4 per acre and a kist of Rs. 2 per acre. The failure of crops since 1085 consequent on the neglected condition of the said channel had caused serious hardships to the ryots. The Member therefore requested the immediate repair of the dam, channel and the sluices therein.

(2) The P. W. D. were indifferent to the needs of the ryots in the matter of water supply. He therefore suggested that the Land Revenue Department should be entrusted with the responsibility of regulating the water supply or if that was not feasible, that a committee consisting of a few P. W. D. officers and ryots be appointed to look after the irrigational facilities of Anjinad.

(3) A bridge over the Talliar channel near Natchivayal was sadly needed and should be ordered to be constructed.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

151. Suggestions for the modification of the rules relating to the constitution and conduct of business in the Assembly.

Mr. Joseph Thalliath, M. A., Bar-at-Law (Member, Parur taluk) said that according to the rules in force, only those who paid an annual land revenue of Rs. 50 were allowed the privilege of voting in the election of taluk members. In his opinion, the standard fixed was very high. In Travancore those who paid Rs. 50 might be considered fairly rich, and generally, rich people were not those who took an interest in public affairs. It was the middle class people of Travancore that would be able to represent to the Government the point of view of the general public on important questions. Unless therefore the minimum of Rs. 50 was lowered, the middle class people who really formed the back-bone of every community, would have very little to do with the Popular Assembly election and proceedings. That was a contingency not calculated to the best interests of the people and the State. The free admission of the middle class could alone entitle the Assembly to the proud appellation of "Popular Assembly". The Member therefore suggested that the franchise should be extended at least to those who paid an annual revenue of Rs. 25. The extension of the franchise would bring a greater number of men in touch with public affairs of the State and would be of great educative value to the general public. Further, such an extension alone could secure an adequate representation of the landed interest in the State, since the existing number of taluk members, and representatives of Jenmies and Planters, hardly represented one-sixth of the entire landed interest of the country.

The Member next referred to the perfunctory way in which the voters' lists were prepared by the Proverthicars. To avoid complaints, he suggested that the Proverthicars should be asked to publish in the village office the list of voters in each *pakuthi* at the beginning of Chingom every year and the people given some time to send complaints to the Peishcar regarding the list. After the disposal of such complaints, a revised list of voters for the whole State should be published in the Gazette. Such a list would give a good deal of information as to the wealth of the people in different taluks, the strength of the different communities in each taluk, etc.

In conclusion, the Member referred to the travelling allowances granted to the Members of the Assembly by the Government and said that those allowances were quite meagre. He requested that they should be given allowances either decently or none at all.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-30 P. M.

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